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Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE  
IN 09867

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

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CITE TDCS -314/03014-67

S-E-C-R-E-T

DIST 28 FEBRUARY 1967

COUNTRY: JORDAN

DOI: 18 FEBRUARY 1967

SUBJECT: GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARDS RELATIONS WITH GRAND MUFTI  
HAJ AMIN HUSAYNI.

ACQ: JORDAN, AMMAN (18 FEBRUARY 1967) FIELD NO. NJA-6658

SOURCE: A REGULAR SOURCE FROM PRIME MINISTER WASFI TAL, WHO WAS  
AWARE THAT THIS INFORMATION MIGHT REACH U.S. GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIALS. TAL MADE THESE STATEMENTS IN THE PRESENCE  
OF SEVERAL OTHER SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS.

1. (FIELD COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RECENT AREA  
PRESS REPORTS THAT THE GRAND MUFTI, HAJ AMIN HUSAYNI, AT THE  
INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN (GOJ), PLANS TO MOVE  
FROM BEIRUT TO JERUSALEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THERE HAS BEEN  
CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT THIS IS A JOINT GOJ/HUSAYNI  
POLITICAL MOVE TO BUILD A PRO-GOJ PALESTINIAN BASE IN JORDAN,  
UNDER HUSAYNI, AS A COUNTER WEIGHT TO AHMAD SHUQAYRI AND THE  
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO).)

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09867

TDCS -314/03014:67

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

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(dissem controls) (dissem controls)

2. THE GOJ HAS PROVIDED LIMITED SUPPORT TO HUSAYNI'S ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE IN THE PAST AS A COUNTER TO SHUQAYRI AND THE PLO. THIS WILL BE CONTINUED, BUT IT IS A MINOR PROJECT IN TERMS OF JORDAN, THE PALESTINIANS AND THE PLO. AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT DISINTEGRATION OF THE PLO AND SHUQAYRI'S LEADERSHIP, NEITHER SHUQAYRI NOR HIS ORGANIZATION ARE CONSIDERED A THREAT TO JORDAN. THUS, THE GOJ HAS NO NEED TO TAKE ANY SERIOUS STEPS THROUGH HUSAYNI OR ANYONE ELSE TO CREATE A POLITICAL COUNTERWEIGHT TO SHUQAYRI. MOREOVER, HUSAYNI IS NOT POPULAR IN MANY CIRCLES, IS GENERALLY DISCREDITED, AND COULD BE A SOURCE OF PROBLEMS AND A LIABILITY TO THE GOJ IF HE WERE GIVEN TOO MUCH LICENSE. HUSAYNI WILL COME TO JORDAN FOR A BRIEF VISIT IN EARLY MARCH. HE ASKED GOJ PERMISSION TO VISIT JERUSALEM OVER THE ID AL FITR FEAST IN MID-JANUARY. PERMISSION WAS GRANTED BY KING HUSAYN, BUT HUSAYNI DID NOT ARRIVE. HE HAS NOW ADVISED THE GOJ THAT HE WILL STOP IN JORDAN ON HIS WAY TO MAKE THE HAJ IN SAUDI ARABIA. BUT HIS STAY IN JORDAN WILL HAVE NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND THE GOJ IS INDIFFERENT TOWARDS HIS VISIT. (FIELD COMMENT: TOP JORDANIAN MILITARY AND SECURITY OFFICERS ARE OPPOSED TO HUSAYNI'S VISIT OR ANY DEALING WITH HIM.)

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09867

YDCS -314/03014-67

PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

S-E-C-R-E-T NO FOREIGN DISSEM

(classification) (dissem controls)

3. (FIELD COMMENT: A FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE CLOSE TO HUSAYNI AND HIS FOLLOWERS CLAIMS THAT TAL IS PRIVATELY ENCOURAGING HUSAYNI TO INCREASE HIS INFLUENCE AMONG WEST BANK PALESTINIANS IN THE HOPE THAT TAL, THROUGH HUSAYNI, CAN DEVELOP A PERSONAL POLITICAL BASE ON THE WEST BANK WHICH TAL CAN EXPLOIT FOR HIS OWN POLITICAL AMBITIONS. )

4. (FIELD COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS TAL'S PRIVATE HOPE BUT HE HAS TAKEN A CONTRARY POSITION IN FRONT OF OTHER SENIOR JORDANIAN OFFICIALS WHO ALSO SHARE THIS VIEW. THIS COMBINATION OF FACTORS SHOULD PRECLUDE HUSAYNI FROM ASSUMING ANY IMPORTANT ROLE OR UNDERTAKING ANY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES IN JORDAN.)

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY CINCEAFSA (ALSO SENT

REPORT CLASS SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM.

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